

(19)



Europäisches Patentamt

European Patent Office

Office européen des brevets



(11)

EP 0 829 750 A2

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(43) Date of publication:
18.03.1998 Bulletin 1998/12

(51) Int. Cl.⁶: G03B 21/16, G03B 21/20,
G03B 21/22, H04N 9/31

(21) Application number: 97113837.5

(22) Date of filing: 11.08.1997

(84) Designated Contracting States:
AT BE CH DE DK ES FI FR GB GR IE IT LI LU MC
NL PT SE

(30) Priority: 12.09.1996 JP 241760/96

(71) Applicant:
MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC INDUSTRIAL CO., LTD.
Kadoma-shi, Osaka 571 (JP)

(72) Inventors:
• Hashimukai, Masanari
Ibaraki-shi, Osaka 567 (JP)

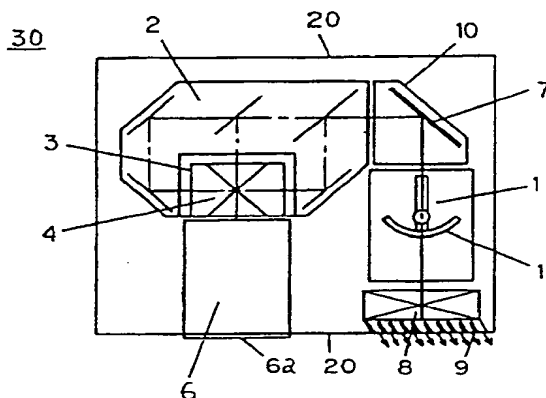
• Hoshino, Makoto
Takatsuki-shi, Osaka 569 (JP)
• Okada, Takehiro
Ibaraki-shi, Osaka 567 (JP)
• Aono, Shozo
Takatsuki-shi, Osaka 569-11 (JP)

(74) Representative:
Kügele, Bernhard et al
NOVAPAT INTERNATIONAL SA,
9, Rue du Valais
1202 Genève (CH)

(54) Liquid crystal display projector

(57) To reduce effects of leak light of a light source lamp, effects of hot air from an exhaust fan, and effects of noise to many and unspecified viewers. The constitution comprises (1) a housing having an exhaust port and a projection opening, (2) an optical block, installed in the housing, having a light source, a reflection mirror, a light separator, an image display unit using liquid crystal, an image combining unit, a said projection lens, and (3) an exhaust fan installed between the light source and the exhaust port, in which the reflection mirror has a function of changing the direction of the light from the light source, the projection lens and the light source are disposed parallel to each other, the exhaust port and the projection opening are formed at a first side of the housing, an image formed by the optical block is projected in the direction of the first side from the projection opening, and the air in the housing is discharged from the exhaust port into the same direction as the first side.

Fig. 1(A)



EP 0 829 750 A2

Description

TECHNICAL FIELD

The present invention relates to an image display device, and more particularly to an apparatus of front liquid crystal display projector.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Recently, along with the advancement of video display device using liquid crystal panel or the like, various types are developed, including the apparatus of front liquid crystal display projector.

For example, Japanese Laid-open Patent 5-2215 discloses a projection type liquid crystal display device for decreasing effects of leak light of a light source lamp for the viewer, exhaust hot air of cooling fan, and noise of fan. In the projection type liquid crystal display disclosed in Japanese Laid-open Patent 5-2215, an exhaust port is formed at a position at opposite side of projection direction of the projection lens. In such conventional constitution, however, the problem is that the air heated by the light source lamp is discharged to the viewer side through the exhaust port. Yet, effects for preventing leak light of light source lamp, hot air, and noise to the viewer were not sufficient.

It is hence an object of the invention to present an apparatus of front liquid crystal display projector extremely decreased in effects of leak light of light source lamp, exhaust hot air of cooling fan, and noise of cooling fan to many and unspecified viewers.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

An apparatus of front liquid crystal display projector of the invention comprises a housing having an exhaust port and a projection opening, and an optical block having a light source and a projection lens, being installed in the housing. The exhaust port and projection opening are formed at a first side of the housing, an image formed by the optical block is projected in the direction of the first side from the projection opening, and the air in the housing is discharged from the exhaust port into the same direction as the first side.

The optical block comprises (a) the light source, (b) a color separator, (c) an image display unit using liquid crystal, (d) an image combining unit, and (e) the projection lens, wherein the light emitted from the light source sequentially passes through the color separator, the image display unit using liquid crystal, the image combining unit, and projection lens, and a color image is projected from the projection lens.

More preferably, the apparatus of front liquid crystal display projector further comprises an exhaust fan installed at the middle side or outer side of the housing, or near the exhaust port, and the exhaust fan has a function of discharging the air in the housing by force

from the exhaust port.

Preferably, the projection lens and light source are disposed parallel to each other.

Preferably, the optical block comprises the light source, reflection mirror, light separator, image display unit using liquid crystal, image combining unit, and projection lens, wherein the light emitted from the light source sequentially passes through the reflection mirror, color separator, image display unit using liquid crystal device, image combining unit, and projection lens, and a color image is projected from the projection lens.

In this constitution, the leak light of the light source will not get into the eyes of many and unspecified viewers. Moreover, hot air does not reach many and unspecified viewers. The noise of the exhaust fan reaching the viewers is reduced. A compact and simple optical block is obtained. The effect for raising the temperature in the set main body is enhanced. The apparatus of front liquid crystal display projector having these effects simultaneously is obtained.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 (A) is a schematic diagram in a plane direction for explaining a constitution of an apparatus of front liquid crystal display projector in an embodiment of the invention.

Fig. 1 (B) is a block diagram in a front direction of the apparatus of front liquid crystal display projector shown in Fig. 1 (A).

Fig. 2 is a schematic diagram for explaining the configuration of the apparatus of front liquid crystal display projector in the embodiment of the invention and a viewer.

Reference Numerals

1	Light source
2	Color separator
3	Image display unit
4	Image combining unit
6	Projection lens
6a	Projection opening
7	Reflection mirror
8	Exhaust fan
9	Exhaust port
10	Optical block
11	Focusing mirror
12	Projection screen
20	Housing
30	Set main body
31	Top of set main body
32	Side of set main body
32A	Side region
33	Back of set main body
33A	Back region
34	Bottom of set main body
35	Front of set main body (projection direction)

L Projection distance
 X Direction of leak light
 Y Region of leak light
 Z Region of image light

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Referring now to the drawings, an apparatus of front liquid crystal display projector in an embodiment of the invention is described in detail below.

To explain the concept of constitution of the apparatus of front liquid crystal display projector of the invention, schematic diagrams in the plane direction and front direction are shown in Fig. 1 (A) and Fig. 1 (B). In Fig. 1 (A) and Fig. 1 (B), an optical block 10 and an exhaust fan 8 are installed in a housing 20. The optical block 10 comprises a light source 1 having a focusing mirror 11, a reflection mirror 7, a color separator 2 for separating the color from the light source 10 into red, green and blue, an image display unit 3 for displaying an image having a liquid crystal panel for red, a liquid crystal panel for green, and a liquid crystal panel for blue, an image combining unit 4 for combining the red image, green image, and blue image, and a projection lens 6 for projecting the combined image. The reflection mirror 7 is installed between the light source 1 and color separator 2. Such plural constituent elements are disposed in a U-form in the housing 20.

That is, the light emitted from the light source 10 is changed in direction by the reflection mirror 7, and passes through the color separator 2, image display unit 3, image combining unit 4, and projection lens 6. The housing 20 includes an exhaust port 9 and a projection opening 6a. The light source 1 has a lamp emitting a bright light. The back direction of the light source 1 and the projection direction of the projection lens 6 face the same direction. The projection lens 6 projects an image forward from the projection opening 6a. The light source 1 and projection lens 6 are disposed closely to each other. The exhaust fan is located at the back side of the light source 1. The housing 20 has the exhaust port 9 formed near the exhaust fan 8 in order to discharge the air exhausted from the exhaust fan 8. The exhaust port 9 has a sufficiently large hole for enhancing the air exhaust efficiency. The projection opening of the projection lens 6 and the exhaust port 9 are disposed at the same side of the housing 20. That is, the projection opening of the projection lens 6 and the exhaust port 9 are provided at the first side of the housing 20. The exhaust port 9 having a specified shape is formed so that the direction of the air exhausted from the exhaust port 9 may be in a range of about 15 degrees to 90 degrees in the direction of the opposite side to the projection opening. Thus, the set main body 30 is composed.

The heat generation by the lamp in the light source 1 is large. Therefore, the inside of the set main body 30 may be heated to high temperature. To prevent from

becoming abnormally high temperature due to accumulation of heat, the exhaust fan 8 has a function of discharging hot air in the set main body 30 to prevent temperature rise in the set main body 30. The high temperature heat generated in the light source 1 is exhausted by force from the exhaust port 9 to outside of the set main body 30 by the exhaust fan 8. The light released from the light source 1 is reflected and focused by the focusing mirror 11, and is changed in direction by the reflection mirror 7, and passes sequentially through the image display unit 3 and image combining unit 4, and is magnified and projected on a screen 12 by the projection lens 6. Thus, a color image is displayed on the screen 12. In this constitution, part of the light of the light source 1 is released to outside of the housing 20 as leak light from the exhaust port 9.

In this embodiment, meanwhile, the exhaust fan 8 is disposed inside of the exhaust port 9, but it may be also disposed outside of the exhaust port 9.

Fig. 2 is a schematic diagram for explaining the configuration of the apparatus of front liquid crystal display projector shown in Fig. 1 (A) and Fig. 1 (B) and a viewer. In Fig. 2, the projection screen 12 is disposed in the direction of front side 35 of the set main body. Usually, when the projection distance L is short, so as not to disturb projection, many and unspecified viewers are positioned in a rear region 33A in the direction of a rear side 33 of the set main body and a lateral region 32A in the direction of a lateral side 32 of the set main body. The image light emitted from the projection opening 6a of the projection lens 6 passes through the range of region "Z" and is displayed on the projection screen 12. Leak light from the light source 1, and hot exhaust air from the exhaust fan 8 are emitted in the direction of arrow "X" from the front side 35 of the set main body, and have effects in a range of region "Y." In this case, the direction of arrow "X" is preferred to be in a range of angle of about 15 degrees to about 90 degrees to the direction of the front side 35 of the set main body. By setting in such angle range, the region "Z" of the projected image light is not overlapped with the region "Y" of leak light.

In such constitution, the viewer is free from effects of leak light and exhaust air. Moreover, the image projected on the screen 12 is free from effects of leak light. Still more, a larger exhaust port can be formed, so that the effect for preventing temperature rise in the set main body may be enhanced.

By contrast, usually, the set main body is put and used on a desk or floor. Therefore, if the exhaust port is formed in the bottom 34 of the set main body, the temperature in the set main body, and on the desk or floor elevates, which poses a problem in safety. When the exhaust port is formed on the opposite side of the projection direction, the viewer suffers effects of leak light and exhaust air. If the exhaust port is formed on the top of the set main body, the viewer suffers effects of leak light and exhaust air.

In this constitution, leak light of the light source will not get into the eyes of many and unspecified viewers. Hot air does not reach many and unspecified viewers. The noise of the exhaust fan reaching the viewers is reduced. A compact and simple optical block can be obtained. The effect for preventing temperature rise in the set main body is enhanced. The apparatus of front light crystal display projector having such effects simultaneously is obtained.

Claims

1. An apparatus of front liquid crystal display projector comprising:
 - a housing having an exhaust port and a projection opening, and
 - an optical block having a light source and a projection lens, being installed in said housing, wherein said exhaust port and said projection opening are formed at a first side of said housing, an image formed by said optical block is projected in a direction of said first side from said projection opening, and an air in said housing is discharged from said exhaust port into the same direction as said first side.
2. An apparatus of front liquid crystal display projector of claim 1, wherein said optical block comprises said light source, a color separator, an image display unit using liquid crystal, an image combining unit, and said projection lens, wherein the light emitted from said light source sequentially passes through said color separator, said image display unit using liquid crystal, said image combining unit, said projection lens, and a color image is projected from said projection lens.
3. An apparatus of front liquid crystal display projector of claim 1, further comprising an exhaust fan installed in said housing, wherein said exhaust fan has a function of discharging the air in said housing by force from said exhaust port.
4. An apparatus of front liquid crystal display projector of claim 1, further comprising an exhaust fan installed between said light source and said exhaust port, wherein said exhaust fan is disposed at an opposite side of a running direction of light of said light source, and said exhaust fan has a function of discharging the air in said housing by force from said exhaust port.
5. An apparatus of front liquid crystal display projector of claim 1, further comprising an exhaust fan installed at an outside of said exhaust port of said housing, wherein said exhaust fan has a function of discharging the air in said housing by force from said exhaust port.
6. An apparatus of front liquid crystal display projector of claim 1, wherein a region of leak light escaping from said exhaust port does not overlap with a region of image light projected from said projection lens.
7. An apparatus of front liquid crystal display projector of claim 6, wherein said region of leak light escaping from said exhaust port is in a range of angle of about 15 degrees to about 90 degrees to the center line of said image light projected from said projection lens.
8. An apparatus of front liquid crystal display projector of claim 1, wherein said projection lens and said light source are disposed parallel to each other.
9. An apparatus of front liquid crystal display projector of claim 1, wherein said optical block has a reflection mirror installed between said light source and said projection lens, and said reflection mirror has a function of changing a light from said light source in the direction of said first side.
10. An apparatus of front liquid crystal display projector of claim 1, further comprising an exhaust fan installed between said light source and said exhaust port, wherein said projection lens and said light source are disposed parallel to each other.
11. An apparatus of front liquid crystal display projector of claim 1, further comprising an exhaust fan installed between said light source and said exhaust port, wherein said optical block comprises (a) said light source, (b) said projection lens, and (c) a reflection mirror disposed between said light source and said projection lens, and said projection lens and said light source are disposed parallel to each other.
12. An apparatus of front liquid crystal display projector of claim 11, wherein said optical block comprises said light source, said reflection mirror, a light separator, an image display unit using liquid crystal, an image combining unit, and said projection lens, and the light emitted from said light source sequentially passes through said reflection mirror, said color separator, said image display unit using liquid crystal, said image combining unit, and said projection lens, so that a color image is projected from said projection lens.

Fig. 1(A)

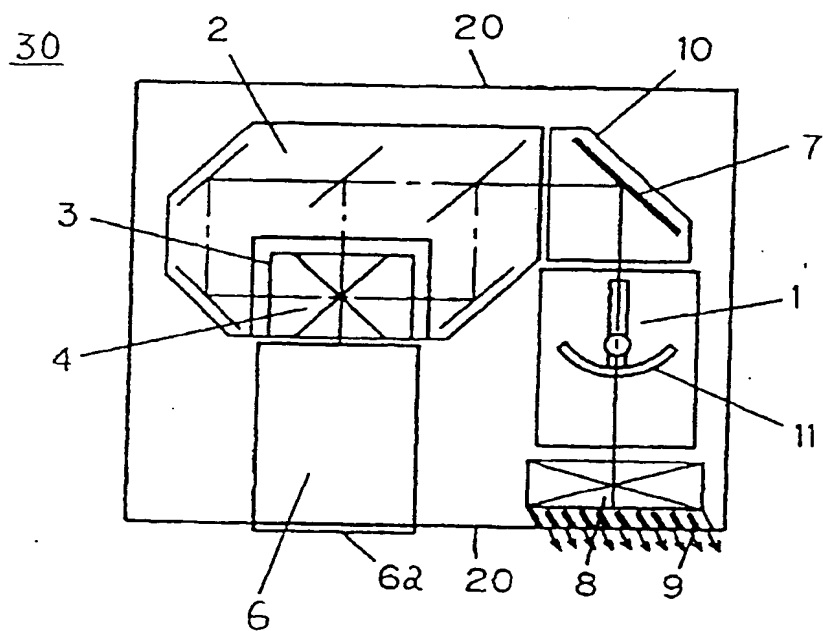


Fig. 1(B)

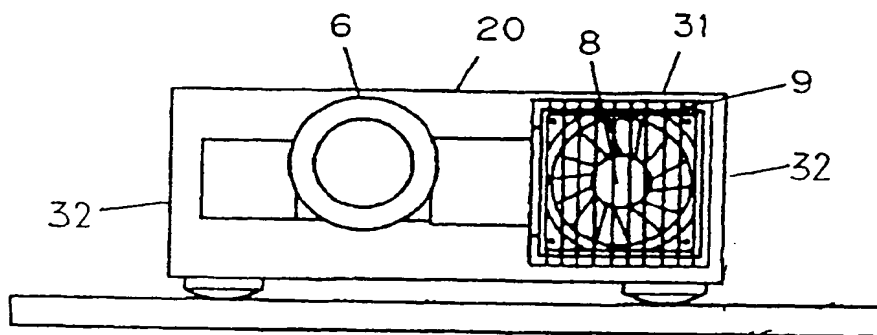
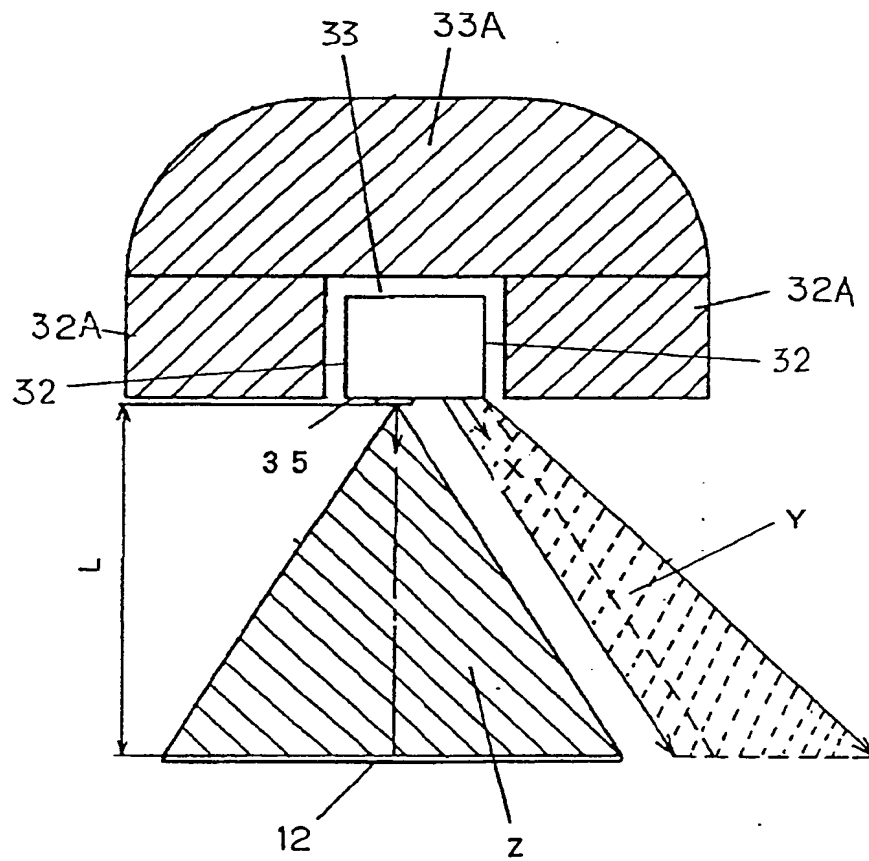
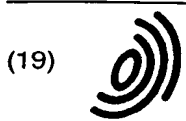


Fig. 2





(19)

Europäisches Patentamt

European Patent Office

Office européen des brevets



(11)

EP 0 829 750 A3

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(88) Date of publication A3:
18.08.1999 Bulletin 1999/33

(51) Int. Cl.⁶: G03B 21/16, G03B 21/20,
G03B 21/22, H04N 9/31

(43) Date of publication A2:
18.03.1998 Bulletin 1998/12

(21) Application number: 97113837.5

(22) Date of filing: 11.08.1997

(84) Designated Contracting States:
AT BE CH DE DK ES FI FR GB GR IE IT LI LU MC
NL PT SE

(30) Priority: 12.09.1996 JP 24176096

(71) Applicant:
MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC INDUSTRIAL CO., LTD.
Kadoma-shi, Osaka 571-0050 (JP)

(72) Inventors:
• Hashimukai, Masanari
Ibaraki-shi, Osaka 567 (JP)

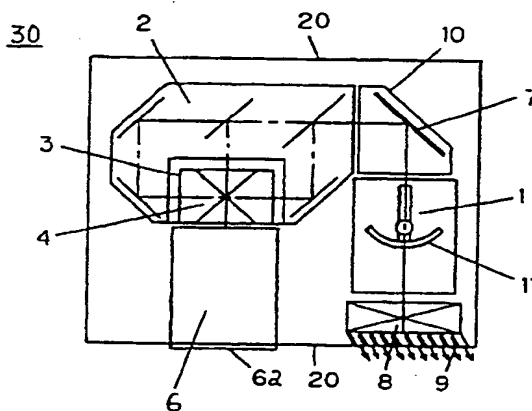
• Hoshino, Makoto
Takatsuki-shi, Osaka 569 (JP)
• Okada, Takehiro
Ibaraki-shi, Osaka 567 (JP)
• Aono, Shozo
Takatsuki-shi, Osaka 569-11 (JP)

(74) Representative:
Kügele, Bernhard et al
NOVAPAT INTERNATIONAL SA,
9, Rue du Valais
1202 Genève (CH)

(54) Liquid crystal display projector

(57) To reduce effects of leak light of a light source lamp, effects of hot air from an exhaust fan, and effects of noise to many and unspecified viewers. The constitution comprises (A) a housing (20) having an exhaust port (9) and a projection opening (6a), (B) an optical block (10), installed in the housing, having a light source (1), a reflection mirror (7), a light separator (2), an image display unit (3) using liquid crystal, an image combining unit (4), a projection lens (6), and (C) an exhaust fan (8) installed between the light source (1) and the exhaust port (9), in which the reflection mirror (7) has a function of changing the direction of the light from the light source (1), the projection lens (6) and the light source (1) are disposed parallel to each other, the exhaust port (9) and the projection opening (6a) are formed at a first side of the housing (20), an image formed by the optical block (10) is projected in the direction of the first side from the projection opening (6a), and the air in the housing (20) is discharged from the exhaust port (9) into the same direction as the first side.

Fig. 1(A)



EP 0 829 750 A3



European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 97 11 3837

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
X	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 017, no. 320 (P-1558), 17 June 1993 -& JP 05 034825 A (SONY CORP), 12 February 1993 * abstract; figures *	1-4, 8-12	G03B21/16 G03B21/20 G03B21/22 H04N9/31
P, X	EP 0 773 691 A (HITACHI LTD) 14 May 1997 * column 8, line 40 - column 9, line 37 * * figures 12-14 *	1, 3, 4, 8-11	
A	WO 86 07167 A (CONSTANTIN SYSTEMS INC) 4 December 1986 * page 9, line 14 - line 30 * * figure 4 *	1	
A	ANONYMOUS: "Cooling Projection System for Passive Display" IBM TECHNICAL DISCLOSURE BULLETIN, vol. 29, no. 9, February 1987, pages 3930-3931, XP002106054 New York, US * page 3930, paragraph 2 - page 3931, paragraph 1; figure 1 * * figure 1 *	1	
A	DE 92 09 965 U (JÖRNS, B) 17 September 1992 * description paragraph 5 * * list of reference signs; signs 6, 11 * * figures *	1	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 15 June 1999	Examiner Heryet, C
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

EPO FORM 1503 03 82 (Pv/Cot)

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 97 11 3837

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

15-06-1999

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
EP 0773691 A	14-05-1997	JP 9133974 A	20-05-1997
		JP 9133967 A	20-05-1997
		US 5743612 A	28-04-1998
WO 8607167 A	04-12-1986	US 4682868 A	28-07-1987
		AU 5955986 A	24-12-1986
		EP 0225918 A	24-06-1987
DE 9209965 U	17-09-1992	NONE	

EPO FORM P4439

For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82

